

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

(Filed: June 14, 2006)

DO NOT PUBLISH

DR. FRANKLIN A. KATZ,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	No. 04-1258V
)	Attorneys' Fees; Attorney' Costs;
SECRETARY OF)	Personal Expenses
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

DECISION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES, ATTORNEYS' COSTS AND PERSONAL EXPENSES¹

Petitioner, Franklin Katz, M.D. (Dr. Katz), seeks an award of \$5,282.84 in attorneys' fees, attorneys' costs and personal expenses as defined by General Order No. 9 for an action that he pursued under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (Program).² See Application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs (Fee Petition), filed May 22, 2006, at 2-3. Respondent does not object. See Status Report, filed May 30 2006, at 1. Dr. Katz did not receive Program compensation. Nevertheless, the statute enacting the Program accords discretion to the special master to "award an amount of compensation to cover" Dr. Katz's "reasonable attorneys' fees and other costs" as long as "the special master or court determines that" Dr. Katz possessed "a reasonable basis for the claim" and that Dr. Katz filed the petition "in good faith." § 300aa-15(e)(1); see, e.g., *Di Roma v. Secretary of HHS*, 1993 WL 496981 (Fed. Cl. Spec. Mstr. Nov. 18, 1993). As the United States Supreme

¹ As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction "of any information furnished by that party (1) that is trade secret or commercial or financial information and is privileged or confidential, or (2) that are medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, "the entire decision" will be available to the public. *Id.*

² The statutory provisions governing the Vaccine Program are found in 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 *et seq.* For convenience, further reference will be to the relevant section of 42 U.S.C.

Court has cautioned in cases involving other fee-shifting schemes, the special master’s “discretion is not without limit.” *Blanchard v. Bergeron*, 489 U.S. 87, 89 n.1 (1989). Thus, absent “special circumstances,” the special master “should ordinarily” award attorneys’ fees and costs to an unsuccessful petitioner. *Id.*, citing *Newman v. Piggie Park Enterprises*, 390 U.S. 400, 402 (1968); *Hensley v. Eckerhart*, 461 U.S. 424, 429 (1983).

The special master has reviewed carefully Dr. Katz’s Fee Petition. Based upon his experience, the special master determines that the Fee Petition is appropriate. Therefore, in the absence of a motion for review filed under RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of court shall enter judgment in Dr. Katz’s favor for \$5,282.84.³ The judgment shall reflect that Dr. Katz’s attorney of record, Peter H. Meyers, Esq. (Professor Meyers), may collect \$5,098.00 from Dr. Katz.⁴

The clerk of court shall send Dr. Katz’s copy of this decision to Dr. Katz by overnight express delivery.

John F. Edwards
Special Master

³ Under Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by filing a joint notice renouncing the right to seek review.

⁴ \$5,282.84 - \$184.84 for Dr. Katz’s personal expenses.